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(54) Title: **OXYGENATING AGENTS FOR ENHANCING HOST RESPONSES TO MICROBIAL INFECTIONS**

(57) **Abstract:** Oxygenating agents are used in the present invention for the novel purpose of treating microbial infections. The invention takes advantage of the fact that the increase in tissue pO<sub>2</sub> produced thereby can enhance the efficacy of the body's own antimicrobial defenses (including tissue repair), while also improving the efficacy of adjunctive agents that may be co-administered, such as antimicrobial agents, antioxidants, cytokine modulators, endotoxin antagonists and growth factors. The oxygenating agents of the present invention achieve the desired increased pO<sub>2</sub> in the tissues without having to resort to the risks and expenses of hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBO). The oxygenating agents can be administered systemically, regionally, or topically.

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